Export of sub-standard meat to Middle-East countries

*139 SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have investigated as to how sub-standard meat was allowed to be exported to Middle East countries which refused to lift the consignment;

(b) if so, what action has been taken against those found responsible for such export; and

(c) what measures are being taken to fully tap the meat markets in EEC countries including Spain and also the Middle-East countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The matter is under investigation.

(b) Pending investigations, allocation of quota for export of sheep and goat meat to the parties involved has been suspended.

(c) Quality Control measures have already been strengthened to ensure product acceptability in the overseas markets. Various incentives like Cash Compensatory Support, Import Replenishment and Duty-drawback, Special Commodity Rates for trasportation of meat by air, are available for exports. UK market would be opened for canned meat following our efforts to get approval from the UK, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Foregin exchange earned by ITDC

*140. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state what was the quantum of foreign exchange earned by the India Tourism Development Corporation during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): The foreign exchange earned by ITDC during the last three years is as under:

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

Year	Amount
1982-83	994·94
1983-84	1204·59
1984-85	1066·52

Change in Common Freight System

†977. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted in principle that common freight system introduced since 1956 for the transport of iron and steel be changed now on the basis of B. D. Pandey Committee's recommendations;

(b) whether according to an estimate of Gujarat Government the implementation of this recommendation si likely to result in rise in prices of steel, iron by Rs. 400 and 300 per ton respectively thereby jeopardising nearly 5000 engineering and foundry units in Gujarat;

(c) whether the Central Government have received representations from organisations; and

†Previously Unstarred Question 514 transferred from the 20th November, 1985.

(d) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Modalities and time phasing of the withdrawal of Freight Equalisation Scheme in respect of iron and steel are being worked out in consultation with the Ministries|Departments concerned. These have not yet been finalised.

Decline in raw jute price

998. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to prevent measive decline in raw jutt price;

(b) what is the volume of raw jute that has so far been purchased by the Jute Corporation of India during the current year;

(c) what was the total production of raw jute during the present season State-wise; and

(d) what is the production cost of raw jute per metric tonnes at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) A statement is attached. (See *below*.)

(b) The Jute Corporation of India has already procured over 15 lack bales of raw jute so far which is substantially higher than the highest ever recorded during this period in the past.

(c) So far as production of raw jute during 1985-86 season is concerned, the final estimates as published by the Ministry of Agriculture, are not yet due.

(d) The Commisson for Agricultural Costs and Prices while formulating their recommendaions on price policy for raw jute for the year 1985-86 have stated that the updated cost of production of raw jute works out to about Rs. 208 per quintal for West Bengal and Rs. 212 per quintal for Assam .

Statement

With the harvesting of a bumper crop of raw jute this season, prices have declined to support level in almost all up-country markets. With a view to protect the interest of jute growers, the following steps have been taken:—

(i) The Jute Corporation of India has been directed to undertake large scale purchases of raw jute at minimum statutory prices fixed by the Government;

(ii) Sufficient credit has been placed at the disposal of Jute Corporation of India for undertaking price support operation;

(iii) A directive has been issued on 6-9-85 by jute Commisioner to all working jute mills in the private sector to build up stocks of raw jute up to specified levels so as to step up purchases of raw jute by mills;

(iv) The Jute Corporation of India has been permitted to export a limited quantity of raw jute.

Coal Mine accidents

999. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many coal mine accidents